

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 886

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION relative to Auctioneers Day in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, auctioneering, one of history's oldest professions, can be traced back to ancient Rome; and

WHEREAS, Roman soldiers called "Magister Auctionarium" drove a spear into the ground to start an auction, just as today's auctioneers use a gavel for the same purpose; and

WHEREAS, the auctioneer's title of Colonel dates back to the Civil War, when only officers with the rank of Colonel could auction off the spoils of war and supplies; and

WHEREAS, although auctioneering is more than 2,000 years old, the rhythmic cadence, or auctioneer's chant, used in the United States is uniquely American; and

WHEREAS, the fast-paced and rapidly punctuated chatter of the modern auctioneer is not only proficient but makes the whole process entertaining as well; and

WHEREAS, auctions are the last bastion of the free enterprise system; an estimated quarter-trillion dollars in goods are sold by professional auctioneers each year; and

WHEREAS, auctions continue to be the most fair, transparent, and effective means of establishing fair market value; and

WHEREAS, auction professionals create a competitive marketplace and connect motivated buyers with sellers wishing to sell their assets for the highest dollar value; and

WHEREAS, professional auctioneers work at many different types of events, including livestock, automobile, real estate, personal property, surplus property, farm equipment, antique, art, benefit, and charity auctions; and

WHEREAS, professional auctioneers strive to advance the auction method of marketing and uphold the highest standards of professionalism in serving the public; and

WHEREAS, auction professionals are proud business owners who support their communities; many auctioneers are also farmers, brokers, surveyors, ministers, parents, spouses, bankers, veterinarians, mechanics, soil scientists, and livestock judges who find joy in helping their fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, the Mule Day Auctioneers Championship, hosted by the Columbia Breakfast Rotary Club, has been held as part of the Mule Day festivities since 2012; during that time, the event, which raises funds for academic scholarships, has tripled in size and become one of the premier auctioneer championships in the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration of Auctioneers Day will heighten public awareness of the contributions made by auctioneers to the history of our State and its economy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that April 3, 2020, is designated as "Auctioneers Day" in Tennessee. We encourage all citizens to participate in appropriate events or programs to commemorate Auctioneers Day.